

# LONESTAR NEWS

## SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION, 2BDE



August 2005



### *Words from Lone Star 6*

**FIRST IN!!** Greetings to the Soldiers, families and friends of the Lone Star Battalion. Most of you will be reading this newsletter while on block leave, taking a much needed break from our aggressive training which started in January of this year and culminating with our rotation at the National Training Center (NTC). I hope all of you were able to visit the Battalion's website during NTC where we reported on some of the activities of the battalion. We will continue to refine the website and use it while deployed to keep family and friends of the Lone Stars up to date. To reach our website go to [www.hood.army.mil](http://www.hood.army.mil), click on "4th Infantry Division", then "Units", then "2nd BDE", then "2nd STB" and finally "Family Readiness".

The NTC rotation was extremely successful, fully stressing the capabilities of our Soldiers and systems in the most realistic training next to combat. With temperatures exceeding 119 degrees, the Lone Stars toiled away at the full spectrum of missions that we will face in Iraq. We provided the critical communications, intelligence and security, including detainee operations along with the ever important life support for the battalion and the brigade. The 2nd STB was the first fully organized STB to train at the NTC and in doing so we actually helped the observer controllers (OCs) better understand all the unique capabilities we bring to the fight.

Our missions included interacting and working with local Iraqi towns, finding the insurgents using our military intelligence assets to destroying improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and securing the forward operating base. Some selected Soldiers had the opportunity to run a four mile convoy live fire range which replicated missions that units are currently executing in Iraq. The OCs made comments that the STB Soldiers were some of the best trained on convoy/combat patrol procedures they've seen in awhile.

### **Lonestar Happenings**

#### **Promotions:**

CPT Boston (HHC)  
CPT Horvath (HHC)  
PFC West (HHC)  
PFC Weigold (HHC)  
PFC Walsh (HHC)  
PFC Morales (HHC)  
PFC Sifuentes (HHC)  
PFC Clay (HHC)  
1LT Aptaker (A Co)  
SGT Shepherd (A Co)  
PFC Armstrong (A Co)  
SPC Brown (A Co)  
SGT Galvez (A Co)  
PFC Gamiao (A Co)  
SPC Segundo (A Co)  
SPC Holland, B. (A Co)  
SGT Teeple (A Co)  
PFC Allsopp (B Co)  
PFC Hicks (B Co)  
PFC Cooper (B Co)  
PFC Esselman (B Co)  
SGT Diaz (B Co)

#### **Reenlistments:**

SSG Cross (A Co)

#### **Births:**

SGT Minor (HHC)  
SGT Saucedo (B Co)



STB Soldiers prepare for a live fire exercise at the National Training Center in July

Thanks to the great showing at the NTC deployment briefing we held on the 23rd of June. We are making plans for the Iraq deployment brief which is scheduled between 1 and 10 November. As soon as we finalize the date we'll get it to you.

I, along with some of the battalion leadership, just returned from a recon trip to Iraq. We met with the units we'll replace in the fall to get a better understanding of the area and mission. Commanders are sharing what they can with Soldiers, so don't hesitate to ask and we'll try to answer questions as long as they don't violate operational security aspects of our mission.

Keep the 22nd of October open as the battalion will hold a fall party giving an opportunity for Soldiers and families to relax, enjoy each other, games and live music.

I would also like to solicit any spouse willing to help with the FRGs at the company level. I encourage all of you to contact your company FRG leader or the company commander, listed in the newsletter and see how you can get involved. Better to get to know some of the other families and spouses in your company now than wait until your Soldier is deployed. There is always room for help.

As always I'm extremely proud and amazed of what our Soldiers do on a daily basis. We couldn't do it without the support of the families and friends. Have a great and safe Block Leave.

Thanks again for all you do for the battalion and our nation. This nation is truly grateful for the sacrifice each of you make on a daily basis. Thank You and God Bless.

"First In"

## UPCOMING BATTALION EVENTS

**13 Sept** – FRG steering committee

**11 Oct** – FRG steering committee

**14-17 Oct** – Columbus (4) Day Weekend

**22 Oct** – BN Fall Festival

**1-10 Nov** – Pre Deployment briefing

**8 Nov** – FRG steering committee

## Lone Star FRG Leaders

### COMMMAND GROUP

LTC MURASKI

CSM CARL CURTICE

MRS. MURASKI (BN FRG)

### HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

CPT DAVE BOLENDER

1SG TIMOTHY BROWN

### ALPHA COMPANY

CPT CARL CARTER

1SG BOBBY MENDEZ

MRS. COTTRELL (FRG)

### BRAVO COMPANY

CPT AND MRS. EVERINGHAM (FRG POC)

1SG PUGA

MRS. SAUCEDO

### REAR DETACHMENT

CPT AUDRY TOWNSELL (OIF)

SSG RONALD BLOSSER



STB Soldiers listen intently to a convoy briefing

## HHC

### Hurricanes

July 29, 2005 signaled the end of operations for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion at NTC. The entire battalion loaded up the gear they had set down weeks prior, lined their vehicles and moved back to the circus tents of RUBA.

Although combat operations had stopped, the work hadn't. The soldiers of HHC got busy with vehicle inspections and turn-ins, weapons cleaning, communications equipment PMCS and turn in, and all the various headaches and fires that crop up during these types of operations.

After only four days of intense work, the operations were complete; the effort made by the outstanding Soldiers of this company yielded an incredibly smooth operation. They then enjoying some free time, playing cards, listening to music or playing cards, chess or football with friends. The heat of the day was brutal, and the soldiers couldn't wait to get home.

Some HHC soldiers who went the extra mile were honored during an awards ceremony. AAMs include:

Sgt. James Cowell  
Sgt. Andrew Wilken  
Spc. Brian Ortiz  
Spc. Clinton Pauley  
Spc. Josue Velez  
Pfc. Rafael Fajardo  
Pfc. Alejandro Ortiz  
Pfc. Kevin Stafford  
Pfc. Cornell Walker  
Pfc. Jamie Warner  
PV2 Richard Sanderlin  
PV2 Sean Weigold

HHC also had a promotion ceremony for West, Weigold, Walsh, Morales, Sifuentes and Clay. HHC also promoted 1LT Greg Horvath and 1LT Skip Boston to CPT on Friday, 26 Aug.

Thanks to all their support and for yours as well, we couldn't do it without you.

**HURRICANES!**  
**HURRICANE 6**

## Alpha Company

### Stalkers

The Shadow Stalkers were sent to the National Training and performed all assigned missions with the tenacity, stealth and motivation. The Soldiers of Alpha Company have persevered through dusty trails, sand storms and temperatures exceeding 110 degrees Fahrenheit for the past two weeks, culminating what has turned out to be a fast paced and exciting seven months of training. The Shadow Stalkers are mission focused and highly trained awaiting its next call to support the Warhorse Brigade as they prepare for future operations.

Welcome to all of the additions to the company through the month of July. We look forward to working along side you and your families as we prepare to deploy.

After long hard training the soldiers and their families are looking forward to some well-deserved time off and a chance to relax. A heart felt thanks to the entire Family Readiness Group for all of its support to the Shadow Stalkers and its families; truly it is a team effort.

**SHADOW STALKERS LEAD THE WAY!**

## Army Community Service



### Family Advocacy Program

Building 121 Suite 121A

Fort Hood, TX 76544

286-6774/618-7582

Department of the Army Program dedicated to prevention, education, prompt reporting, and intervention of child and spouse abuse.

287-CARE Hotline: To report spouse and child abuse incidents, monitored 24 hours 7 days a week.

20 different classes/programs available ranging from Relationship Enrichment Program to Stress/Anger/Conflict Workshop to Child Safety.

Child care provided for classes upon advance request.

Classes available upon request.



## **Bravo Company**

### **Bulldogs**

The Bulldogs, with the help of some outstanding Soldiers from the 57th Signal Battalion, have successfully completed our rotation at the National Training Center. Most importantly, the company made it through the rotation with no serious injuries, which is a tribute to the Soldiers and their first line leaders.

The Soldiers performed superbly in accomplishing their mission to support the Warhorse Brigade's communications requirements during this rehearsal for our upcoming deployment. Being a digital brigade combat team, they rely heavily on the services our Soldiers provide. I am proud to report that the Bulldogs did not let them down and enabled the brigade to successfully make this a first class training event.

I am happy to report the recent promotion of the following Soldiers:

PFC Allsopp, PFC Hicks, PFC Cooper, PFC Esselman, and SGT Diaz.

We would like to welcome the following Soldiers and their families to the Bulldog team: SGT Morris, SSG Wold, SSG Fernandez, SGT Harrison, and CW1 Boucher.

And finally I would like to send congratulations to the Saucedo's who have recently were blessed with their third daughter.

**"THIS IS OUR BACKYARD SIR," BULLDOG 6 OUT!!**

## **Army One Source**

Is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week, toll-free information and referral telephone service available to all soldiers and families.

AOS provides information for every day concerns, deployment and reintegration issues, relocation, financial matters, family support, relationships, education and schooling, health and wellness, and more. Additionally, if there is a need for face-to-face counseling, AOS will provide referrals to professional civilian counselors for assistance.

[www.Armyonesource.com](http://www.Armyonesource.com)

1-800-464-8107

## **Feeling the Impact of Army Life?**

**Having difficulty finding and obtaining help?**

**Dealing with injuries, physical symptoms, or stress associated with combat?**

**Having troubles connecting with family and friends?**

**Unsure of your next step?**

**Care Managers Can Help!**

**Call the Behavioral Health Deployment Help Care Line**

**535-4497**



An STB Soldier treats a casualty while others provide shade from the blazing sun